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expect satisfactory results if they are not so performed. If there be any criticism to be made of this portion of the work it is to wish that more mention had been made of possible interfering elements, for the field mineralogist rarely has cabinet specimens to deal with.

In the next chapter the blowpipe and chemical reactions are tabulated in a form which will be recognized as a distinct improvement on those of the earlier book. The tables are models of clearness and completeness. With an introduction to the use of the tables, the revised portion of the work closes, but promise is made of an early revision of the tables, including the introduction of new species and many changes and corrections in the chemical formulæ. To express the hope, which will be general, that this promise may soon be fulfilled, is to bestow the highest praise on the work which has been already done.

O. C. FARRINGTON.

The Dinosaurs of North America. By OTHNIEL CHARLES MARSH. Sixteenth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey, Part I, pp. 133–414.

Under this title Professor Marsh has published, in an article of 101 pages of text, a résumé of his long series of papers on the Dinosauria of North America. Intended as it is for the general reader, there are few new facts brought out, and the specialist finds little of value to himself beyond the convenience of a condensed statement of Professor Marsh's views, and the large collection of illustrations which form so important a part of the paper. There are eighty-four plates and sixty-six figures in the text. Most of the plates are familiar to the readers of the *American Journal of Science*, as they are enlarged copies of the ones accompanying the author's papers in that journal.

The author's aim is "to give the general reader a clear idea of some of the type specimens of one great group of extinct animals that were long the dominant forms of life in this continent." Of especial interest to such a class must be the restorations attempted by Professor Marsh, and it is well to issue a warning against receiving as entirely accurate restorations which, made in many cases from incomplete material, can only represent the author's idea of the most probable form of the skeleton. In the same spirit of warning we must call attention to the statement that "the best authorities regard them (the Dinosauria) as constituting a distinct subclass of Reptilia;" indeed, it should be remembered that some of the "best authorities" are among those who assert "that these reptiles do not form a natural group, but belong to divisions remotely connected and not derived from a common stock." It is, to say the least, a very open question whether the groups defined as the orders *Theropoda*, *Sauropoda*, and *Predentata* are not distinct and unrelated.

The Dinosaurs are discussed in the order of their appearance in time. The Triassic Dinosaurs come under Part I and are followed by the Jurassic and Cretaceous forms in Parts II and III. These parts are confined to descriptions of the anatomical characters of the various forms and their distributions. The author discusses briefly in this connection the European forms and their relations to the North American forms.

Part IV is taken up with a general discussion of the relationship of the Dinosauria to the Aëtosauria, Crocodilia, Belodontia, and Aves, to all of which groups he finds many points of similarity.

Part V is devoted entirely to a classification of the group which he regards as a distinct subclass *Dinosauria*, with three orders *Theropoda*, *Sauropoda*, and *Predentata*. The order *Theropoda* contains ten families and the four suborders *Cœluria*, *Compsognatha*, *Ceratosauria*, and *Hallopoda*. The order *Sauropoda* contains six families and no suborders. The order *Predentata* contains eleven families and the suborders *Stegosauria*, *Ceratopsia*, and *Ornithopoda*.

Professor Marsh has retained the opinions which he has expressed in his former publications on the same subject, many of which have been criticised and controverted in current scientific literature, so that, while the work will find its chief, and a great value, to the reader who has not access to scientific periodicals, he must not lose sight of the fact that the taxonomic position of the animals comprising the heterogeneous group called Dinosaurs is still an unsettled question.

E. C. C.